

Executive Order Roundtable Discussions

Location:

President's Conference Room East 1 and 2 (1st Floor)
Miller Senate office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

AUGUST 21 1:30 to 4:30

Session I: Introduction to the Topic: How is the electric distribution system currently designed? What is currently in place in terms of regulations and standards regarding reliability? What are the customers' expectations regarding reliability and resiliency?

Confirmed Speakers:

Rajnish Barua, Ph.D., Executive Director, NRRRI
Leslie Romine, Staff Counsel at the Public Service Commission
Roger Berliner, President, Montgomery County Council
John Jimison, Energy Future Coalition

AUGUST 27 1:30 to 4:30

Session II: Undergrounding

What is it? What are the pros and cons? Where can the utilities get the best return for investment with regard to undergrounding? What are the costs? Where should the utilities start? What reliability improvements are available at what cost from undergrounding individual customer service lines, local distribution feeders, or both?

Confirmed Speakers:

Jim Fama, Edison Electric Institute
Matt Olearczyk, Senior Program Manager, EPRI
Philip DiDomenico, Shaw Group
Dr. Bilal Ayyub, University of Maryland
George E. Owens, Downes Associates

William M. Gausman, Senior Vice President, Strategic Initiatives, PHI Holdings

AUGUST 28 1:30 to 4:30

Session III: What investments should customers be encouraged to make (or not to make) to increase their reliability?

Distributed power generation and storage? What is the role of microgrids, and who should own and operate them? Should we be looking at that as well?

Confirmed Speakers:

Rajnish Barua, Ph.D., Executive Director, NRRI

Dr. Eric Wachsman, University of Maryland

Mary Lasky, Business Continuity, Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab

Chris Cook, President and General Counsel, Solar Grid Storage, LLC

Dr. Ben Hobbs, Johns Hopkins University

Dr. Danny Ervin, Salisbury University

Tom Glennon, Honeywell

SEPTEMBER 4 1:30 to 4:30

Session IV: How will smart grid impact reliability and resiliency of the grid?

Are there additions or options that could be added to our AMI programs that would make it more reliable and/or resilient? How does the usage information (and outage information) reported by smart meters impact reliability of the existing grid?

Confirmed Speakers:

Hank Kenchington, Deputy Assistant Secretary Research & Development, Office of Electricity Delivery, Department of Energy

Akhlesh Kaushiva , P.E., Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, Department of Energy

William M. Gausman, Senior Vice President, Strategic Initiatives, PHI Holdings

Steven Hauser, Director of Engineering Service and Chief Technology Officer, New West Technologies, LLC

SEPTEMBER 6 1:30-4:30

Session V: Other investments on the utility side of the meter

What other investments should the utilities make to upgrade their systems to make them more reliable and resilient? Synchro-phasors and other monitors for major circuits and sub-stations? Monitors for all pole-mounted transformers to report on failures? Improved transformers? Programmable systems to automatically reroute power around disruptions? What is the state-of-the-art in distribution utility services? How close are Maryland's utilities to the state-of-the-art in their systems?

Confirmed Speakers:

Dr. Steven Gabriel, University of Maryland

Hank Kenchington, Deputy Assistant Secretary Research & Development, Office of Electricity Delivery, Department of Energy

Akhlesh Kaushiva , P.E., Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, Department of Energy

Brian Deaver, Technical Executive, EPRI

Ken Capps, Senior VP of Engineering and Operations, SMECO

Sunil Pancholi, Director – Strategy, Lockheed Martin Energy Solutions

SEPTEMBER 7 1:30 to 4:30

Session VI: Energy Assurance: How can emergency planning/infrastructure planning help with resiliency?

What is Maryland's energy assurance plan? What is Maryland's critical infrastructure? Are there things the State can do now to improve our resiliency and response? Should the State focus on wiring and ensuring that our critical infrastructure is ready to receive back-up power from a variety of sources? What about things like generators for light signals? Investments in generators for vulnerable populations? Regulations for vulnerable populations? Should customers be encouraged or discouraged from installing emergency generators? Are there ways to improve communications between emergency managers and utilities?

Confirmed Speakers:

Dr. Stephen Flynn, Professor and Founding Co-Director, George J. Kostas Research Institute for Homeland Security, Northeastern University

Charles Fischer, Vice President, Preparedness Operations, Witt Associates

SEPTEMBER 10 1:30 to 4:30

Session VII: Human Infrastructure.

How does the mutual assistance process work? How do the current staffing levels of the utilities compare to the staffing levels of 10-15 years ago? Would more staff mean better reliability? Or more resiliency? If so, what would be the cost? Are the utilities prepared for the future in terms of staffing?

Confirmed Speakers:

Scott H. Strauss, Esq., Spiegel & McDiarmid, LLP

Brian Daschbach, Vice-President, Integrated Field Services, BGE

Jim Hunter, Director, Utility Department, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Robert Whalen, President, System Local 102, Utility Workers Union of America

Sunil Pancholi, Director – Strategy, Lockheed Martin Energy Solutions

SEPTEMBER 11 1:30 to 4:30

Session VIII: Cost Recovery

How is infrastructure currently recovered? What are the various methodologies that should be considered regarding cost recovery? What are the benefits and costs of this? Could certain communities self-identify as being willing to pay for upgraded service? Who should bear the financial risks for unreliability? Should utility financial returns be based in part on maintenance of reliability and quick recovery of service after forced outages?

Confirmed Speakers:

Greg Carmean, Executive Director of Organization of PJM States

Rajnish Barua, Ph.D., Executive Director, NRRI

Mark Case, Vice-President, Strategy and Regulatory Affairs, BGE

Paula Carmody, Office of People's Counsel

Reid Detchon, Energy Future Coalition

Jigar Shah, founder of Sun Edison

DATE TO BE DETERMINED 1:30 to 4:30

Session IX: Analysis of Costs of Proposed Infrastructure